

Remarks

By the foregoing Amendment, claim 14 is amended, claim 20 is cancelled, and new claims 22-28 are presented. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Entry of the Amendment, and favorable consideration thereof, is earnestly requested.

The Examiner has indicated that the display of the recited tip positions is not illustrated in the drawings. Accordingly, this claim has been cancelled.

The Examiner has rejected independent claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over Chen, U.S. Patent No. 6,702,736, at the time of the invention in view of Fukunaga, U.S. Patent No. 6,346,940. Accordingly, these claims have been amended.

Independent claim 14 has been amended to clarify the nature of the “variable direction of view” endoscope and the graphical depiction of the view vector relative to the scope. Specifically, claim 14 has been amended to recite a view vector that pivots relative to the longitudinal axis of the shaft, and the display of a graphical model of the endoscope shaft and the orientation of the view vector as it pivots relative to that shaft. This is unlike the system of Fukunaga, which does not relate to what is typically referred to as a variable-direction-of-view scope, but rather, comprises a flexible scope that is bent in order to change its view, and further, includes a dial with which one can “virtually” change the view direction. See Col. 1, Ins. 14-24; Col. 27, Ins. 25-57. Accordingly, Fukunaga simply discloses graphically representing a viewpoint and its

view direction (line of sight) using sphere 35 and bar 37. See Col. 1, Ins. 20-24; Col. 8, Ins. 61-67. Because this is a fundamentally different type of device (i.e., it does not pivot a view vector relative to the shaft axis), the Fukunaga device would not be modified to include a second display graphically depicting an endoscope shaft and the orientation of the view vector relative to that shaft as it pivots relative thereto.

Additionally, new independent claim 22 has been amended to specifically recite the pivoting of the view vector via an internal view changing mechanism to even further clarify this distinction. Fukunaga obviously has no such mechanism, but instead, operates in a fundamentally way, as described above.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 14-19 and 21-28, all of the claims remaining in the application, are in order for allowance, and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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